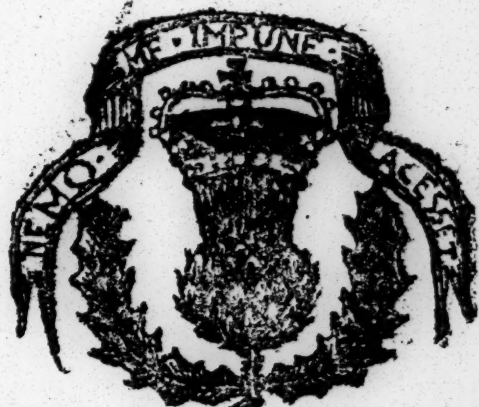


THE  
WONDERFULL and TRUE  
RELATION  
Of the *Bewitching* a Young Girl in  
IRELAND,

What Way She was tormented, and a  
*Receipt* of the *Ointment* that She was  
cured with.



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Printed in the Year, 1699.



*The true and wonderfull Relation of the Bewitching of a young Girle in Ireland; What Way She was tormented, and a receipt of the Ointment She was cured with.*

**I**T seemeth hard to unruly Minds, that GOD should keep intellectual *Souls* so strange to the unseen *World* of *Spirits*; that We know so little of them, that our Knowledge of them is no more by the *Way of Sense*; But there is in it much of GOD's *Arbitrarie Sovereign Power*, and much of His *Wisedom*, and much of His *Justice*, and also of His *Love*.

But to see the *Devils* and other *Spirits* ordinarily would not be enough to bring our *Atheists* to the saving knowledge of GOD, without which al other knowledge is vain. They that doubt of GOD, the most perfect, eternal, and infinite Beeing, while they see the *Sun*, *Moon*, and *Stars*, the *Sea*, and *Land*, would not know Him by seeing created *Spirits*, and findiug that al-  
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most

#### 4 The true and wonderfull Relation

most all the *Atheists*, *Sadducees*, and *Infidels*, did seem to profess that were they but sure of the Reality of the Apparitions and Operations of Spirits, it would cure Them; I thought this the most suitable Help for them.

I confess it is very difficult to expound the Causes of all mentioned in these Histories of *Witches* and *Spirits*: But proved Maters of Fact must not be denied, but improved as well as well as We can, and And I confess very manie cheats of pretended *Possessions* have been discovered which have made some weak injudicious Men think that all are such. Two sorts of persons have oft been found Deceavers,

1. Persons prepared and trained up purposely by *Papist Priests*, to honour their *Exorcisms*, You may find in Print of the *Boy of Bilson*, *Petrus* who afterwards I heard turned *Quaker* at *Bristol*, many such like are recorded in History.

2. Lustfull, rank *Girls* and young *Widows*, that plot for some amorous procacious Design, or have Imaginations conquered by Lust, tho' I think when they  
come

come to a *Furor Uterinus*, *Sathan* oft setteth in.

The Instances tell Us, 1. that the state Converse, Policy, Laws of the *Aerial World* or *Regions*, are much, tho' not wholly, unknown to Us here. 2. And so is the natural State of the departed Souls of wicked Men, as to their having Bodies or no Bodies, their Power, their Wits, their Motions, and Passions. 3. and also, whether they be proper *Devils* when joined with, or of another *Species*. 4. And 'tis hard to know by their Words or Signs, when it is a *Devil*, & when is an *Humane Soul* that appeareth. 5. and it is unsearchable to us, how far God leaveth invisible, intellectual Powers to free will about inferiour things, suspending his predetermining motion tho' not his generall motion and concours & whether those called *Fairies* and *Goblins* are not such.

But as all these, and more such, are unknown to us, so GOD seeth it meet for us that it should be so, and we should not so much as desire or indeavor that it might be otherwise.

but



6 *The true and wonderfull Relation*

But we may know (which must suffice us) That no Spirits can doe any thing, but by GOD's will or permission

But now to come to this true relation which my eyes did see all along and many Hundereds did see which they can atest to this day say *Atheists* what they will I was not blinded in it.

At *Antrim* in *Ireland* a litle girle in the ninth year of hir age, for beauty, education, or birth inferior to none where she lived, having innocently put into hir mouth a *Sorrel* leaf, which was given her by a Witch that begged at the door, to whom she had first given a peice of bread, and then some Beer, it was scarce swallowed by her, when she began to be tortured in her bowels, to tremble all over, and then to be convulst, and in fine, to swoon away & fall as one dead. Severail Doctors being caled ( for at the forsaide place wher these things happned in *May 1698.* it is customary for to practise physick) tho' they for manye Days experimented the Remedie usual in this Case; The Child found no relief, but was still afflicted with very frequent  
and

*Of the Bewiching of a Girl, &c.* 7

and most terrible *Paroxisms*; whereupon, as the custom of the Country is, they consult the Ministers of that place, but they had scarce laid their Hands on Her when the child was transformed by the *Dæmon* in to such shaps as a man that hath not beheld it with his eyes, would hardly be brought to imagine. It began first to rowl it self about, and nixt to Vomit *Horse Dung*, *Ncedles*, *Pins*, *Hairs*, *Feathers*, bottoms of *Threed*, *Fieces of Glass Window Nails* draven out of a Cart or Coach wheels, an iron *knife* above a span long, *Egg* and *Fishskells* in the mean while, hir parents and those of the neighbourhood, observe that whensoever the *Witch* came near the House, or so much as turned her eye towards it, even at the distance of two hundreth paces, the poor Child was in much greater torment then befor, insomuch that she could by no means be easie of her sitt, or shew one sign of life until she was at a very great distance from Her. This *Witch* was soon apprehended, and confest both this, and infinite other the like Feats, for when she was strangled and burnt, being desired by

8     *The true and wonderfull Relation*

by the *Minister* who assisted Her in Her last *Agony*, and at that Moment on which depends Eternity; when the Executioner had now fitted the Rope to her Neck, that she would dissolve the *Spell*, and ease the Child, she said it was not in her Power because the *Ember-Weeks* were past since she had bewitched Her; adding, that should she undo the Villanies she had perpetrated, the child would not so quickly recover, for the two other *Witches*, whom she named, had also given her mortal *Infections*, from the Effects whereof she could not without Difficulty, and much time, be delivered, the Mother as in a despicable case, brought her Daughter to me about the middle of *September*, and I had her with Me some weeks. What I then saw, heard, and handled, because I know many *Physicians*, those especially that are averse that there can be *Witchas*, will hardly believe it upon my Narrative; So may GOD help Me, as I shall most truly relate what I saw. The Day after this unfortunat child came to my house I took care to send for a *Minister* who still lives here, while he was yet 50 paces from  
my



*Of the Bewitching of a Girle, &c.* 9

my Chamber, the *Girle* fell down as one deprived of Life; I took her for dead, For she had not so much as the least *breath*: her Fingers and Toes, (which if I had not seen it my self, I could not have believed it,) were so writhen and convulst, that the exterior or third Joint, sttuck so hard unto the second, a thing which is scarce possible narurallie, that they might seem to have been fastned together with the stiffest *Glue*: I endeavoured to thrust a Golden Bodkin betwixt them, and after an Iron Nail, a Wooden Spindle, &c. but all in vain; the *Mother* seeing the *Child* fall, For she would never go one step from her, said, the *Ministers* were coming, she had no sooner said this, but they knocked at the Door: when they were come in and lighted a *Candle*, as soon as ever they had read the first Words of a Chapter of the *Gospel* of *S. Mattheu*, the *Girle* which hitherto had lain more immovable than any dead *Corps*, fell a shaking all over, Her Fingers and Toes continuing as they were, with that Violence that she could not be held still by six of us, by no means We could use; my s

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who

10    *The true and wonderfull Relation*

who with all my strength essayed to hold her Head, observed it both by my sight and feeling, to be writhen as by an *Ophithomick Convulsion*, together with Her Neck towards her shoulders; in the mean time, her belly was raised up to a prodigious bigness and was nearer her Throat, than Her Thighs: and that with so great a Noise & Grumbling of Her Bowels, that all present could hear it at above ten Paces distance. The Sound was the nearest to that which is caused by tempestuous Waves under the Prow of a ship; all this while the child vomited several of the abovementioned things. I begg'd the *Minister*, out of Compassion to Her, to forbear his reading, he had scarce pronounced the last syllable, when in an instant she lay as quiet as possible, and after He had quited the House, and was at a considerable distance off, she undid her fingers and Toes, and open her Eyes, & straight way stood up, and when she had wept a little, and chid her mother for sending for the *Minister*, tho' she never saw them, nor as she said, heard them, she presently began to eat, drink, and play with her equals  
just

just as if nothing had ailed her, but upon the *Minister's* returning to do his office, she was as formerly, I saw her this while cast up Feathers, Bundles of Straw, above the bigness of my thumb, with pins stuck across the straws, Points woven of Threed of several Colours, and a row of Pins stuck in a blue paper, as fresh and new as any sold in the *Pedlar's* stall: In fine, every thing as the innocent child affirmed, which she had seen in the *Witches* basket when she begg'd, which favours plainly of *Devilism*, & which all the *Philosophers* in the World, are not able to solve; for by what Operation could every thing she had seen in the basket, be conveyed in the same kind and tale into the Bowels of the child, except the *Devil* himself was not assisting? But when I saw all she had cast up, was perfectly dry, and without the least wet, I told the Ministers and several learned men present (for I cal'd many out of desire of being the better informed) that surely our Eyes were enchanted; for that these things could not possibly come out of her Body, For how could it be that the pricking of so many Pins,

12 *The true and wonderfull Relation*

should bring up no Blood? How could a sharp knife come up the narrow throat of a young child without cutting the passage I added that it was my Opinion that these things must be conveyed privately some way from some other Place, and then by the malicious Demon that took pleasure to deceive us, drop from the Childs Lips into our hands and that I was brought to mind of a Verse in *Ovid*, which I never understood, but now less than ever, it is this,

*Devoret absentes simulacraque cerea fingit,*

*Et miserum tennes in jecur urget Acus.*

*Curses the absent, then forms waxen shapes  
Runs into th' Liver Needles-----*

The words are spoken of *Medea* a Witch, but the child herself being immixt with us in our debates and of a capacity above her years, soon resolved this difficulty, for we doubt not said she, but that these things come out of me, and with that she caught my Hand, and put it to her Throat; feel, said she, a Pin without an head coming up, and which will come up presently, I felt and immediatly when I thought verily I held

13 *Of the Bewiching of a Girl, &c.*

held it fast betwixt the fingers of my left Hand within her Throat, I perceaved it to be forced violently from me, and presently seeing the child about to spit, I received in my right Hand, and I have shewed since to several incredulous persons, and still keep it by me to shew to the Curious, with Parots Feathers, Threed, Straw and other like Materials. In like manner I have frequently at other times felt the ends of Points, while they were yet in the very orifice of her stomach, and while they were coming up, and ready to come out of her Mouth, all who were curious to make experiments imagined they could hold the end of the Point in the middle of her Throat, but the crafty Demon defeated all their Attempts.

After she had exorted for some weeks to no Purpose, her mother had great desire to carry her to a Doctor near to *Dublin* who was belived by the vulgar, to be verie famous in the curing of these but staying severall dayes without any effect they bring the child back to my house, not on Jot the better but the worse by a Hydrophobia or as I would rather call it a Stygrophobia

or



14 *The true and wonderfull* Relation  
or fearfullness of moist things, so called;  
very sad and disconsolat, and disparing of  
her life, Yea, praying for her death she  
came back to me, about the midst of *Autum*  
refusing not only wine, beer, meed, and all  
water; but also boiled meat, and bread  
steep in broth or wine, and att last wheat  
& wheaten bread I belive because the one  
was made with milk, and the other with  
water, as is usuall with us, for which reason  
for forty dayes time, she lived on nothing  
but Apples, Raisins, Nuts, Almonds & other  
fruits proper to the season yet for all this-  
the rosie blush in her cheeks was not di-  
minished, nor the milky snow of her fore  
head, at last for fifteen dayes and nights  
together, she took neither meat nor drink  
how she could Pass so many dayes with-  
out either meat or drink: I confess my  
selfe ignorant; but that so it was, I doe  
avow, and all my family are ready most  
solemnly to depose upon Oath; on the sex-  
teenth day when she had of her own ac-  
cord, asked for some drink, and taken it  
she no longer refused food. I thought then  
season to have recourse to naturall means,  
not

not omitting divne exercise and I prepared the decoction *ex fuga Daemonum* of south-eren wood, Mugwort, Vervene &c. and after I had used her a while to that drink, I sent her home : in the Intrim tumbling over all the books, I could find, at last I light on *Bartholemew Carrichters*, secrets who in XII. Chap. of his 2 book describes a certain medicine proper to this malady finding this mightly recommended in *Horstius* his medicinall epistles, *Epist. I. Sect. VII.* in *Hector Schlands* letter to *Grigory Hostius* dated in the year 1612. I write to the Apothecary in *Dublin* in whose shops I thought it was sold promising any rate for the unguent and prescription but receving no advice from them, and being day and night sollicitus for the Childs recoverie I took *Carrichter* again into my hands, and having much adoe to understand him by reason of a mistack of the printers who had printed in one word *Hoter bletter beer* which should have been in three, I at last a long time after for want of necessarie materials, caused the folowing unguent to be made. Take of Dogs Grease well dissolved  
and

16 *The true and wonderfull Relation, &c.*  
and cleansed, four *Ounces*; Of Bears Grease  
eight Ounce; Of Capons Grease, four and  
twenty Ounces; three trunks of the *Mistle-  
toe* of the *Hazle* while green, cut in pieces  
& pound it smal, till it become moist; bruiſe  
together the wood, leaves and Berries, mix  
all in a Vial, after You have expoſed it to  
the Sun for nine weeks; You ſhall extract  
a green Baſom, wherewith if you anoint  
the Bodies of the Bewitched, eſpecially the  
parts moſt effected and the joynts, they  
will certainly be cured, as hath been pro-  
ved by the child, who hath been now  
perfectly well ſince only an the dayes of  
the Ember-weeks do what ſhe can ſhe is  
ſeized with a certain tranſient melancholy.

And this is the reaſon why I have in-  
genouſly communicated to the world, the  
above-mentioned Preſcription, concealed  
by others, and ordered it to be printed  
for the Good of others, that may have the  
like; So Farewell.

*Daniel Higgs.*

FINIS.

